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Editor and Publisher

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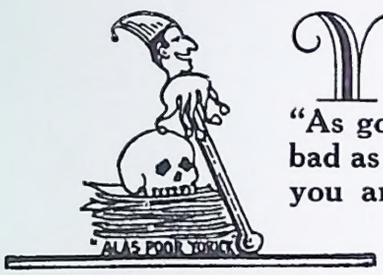
AS GOOD AS YOU ARE AND AS BAD AS I AM



YOU remember the old children's challenge which said, "As good as you are and as bad as I am, I'm as good as you are as bad as I am". We were reminded of that rhyme when the leader of the Leadership League Wednesday evening of March 15th publicly handed over the leadership of the League, at the Maple Leaf Gardens to a provisional committee comprising The Hon. Dr. Herbert Bruce, former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and Sir Frederick Banting, renowned Insulin discoverer.

There were about ten thousand men and women assembled at the Maple Leaf Gardens to hear Mr. McCullagh, publisher of the Globe and Mail and founder of the League, take the public more intimately into his confidence as to his motive back of the formation of the Leadership League, than he has hitherto been able to do in his series of Radio addresses, and through the columns of his newspaper.

Your editor's opinion of the Leadership League has always been that the public reaction to it in Canada would be to make members of party politics stronger adherents to their particular party.

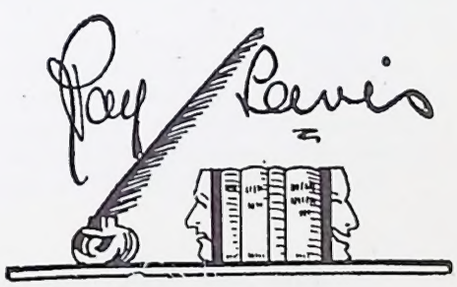
Mr. McCullagh's plain spoken statements in which he invited followers of the Protestant, Jewish and Catholic faiths to become members of the League, present a platform not in accordance with Fascist ideas as we are familiar with them today, in fact some of the leaders of the Fascist Party in Canada have made public statements alleging that certain citizens, among which Mr. Nathanson was mentioned, have given Mr. McCullagh large checks to foster his Leadership League movement. What may be important is that the Leadership League's founder stated clearly that he was not desirous of forming a new party in Canada; his purpose was to form a strong organization of public opinion to see that the right type of citizens became the leaders of their respective parties.

The picture in relationship to this League which we focus upon the Screen, is the Power revealed in Voice, through the Radio, and the Pen, through the Press, to mass people into formation today.

It is alleged that over one hundred and fifty thousand citizens of Canada have joined the League. Whether they have or have not is not the question, ten thousand came to Maple Leaf Gardens, cheered and applauded the speakers and the ideas as expressed there.

That is why it is important for the Screen to do, not its little bit, but its Big Bit, to spread the ideas and ideals of Democratic Government, for as Good as Dictatorship governments are, and as Bad as Democracy Governments are alleged to be, our Democracies can say, "We are as good as you are as bad as we are".

Our advantage is that there are degrees of badness in Government; and no Government by Party Politics which we have ever had, be it Conservative, Liberal or Labor, could begin to be as bad as Dictatorships. The world's moving picture story of Dictatorships today, is the only picture which you need to convince you. It represents a continuity of lies, betrayals and murders. Let those who have the Power of the Screen use it not only to amuse the world into a forgetfulness of its present anxieties, but to prepare them for the support of the power of Good invested in Democracy.



Shooting the Stars

To the list of famous screen detectives such as William Powell, Melvyn Douglas and Warren William, must now be added the name of JAMES STEWART, who in his latest starring role for M-G-M, in "IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD", plays the role of a private detective; CLAUDETTE COLBERT has the feminine lead, with W. S. VAN DYKE II directing . . . WARNER BROS. have engaged EDUARDO CIANNELLI, JANE WYMAN and RONALD REAGAN for featured roles in "BATTLE OF CITY HALL", with the "DEAD END" KIDS, BONITA GRANVILLE and FRANKIE THOMAS . . . DARRYL F. ZANUCK announced this week that he is planning to produce a super-feature for 20th CENTURY-FOX based on the life of CHARLES PROTEUS STEINMETZ, famous electrical inventor . . . J. M. KERRIGAN has been signed for a top role in RKO RADIO'S "SORORITY HOUSE", now being produced by ROBERT SISK with ANNE SHIRLEY and JAMES ELLISON in the leads . . . . SAMUEL GOLDWYN announced this week that he has signed a new contract with GARY COOPER calling for the star's exclusive services; first GOLDWYN-U.A. film in which Cooper will star under the new contract will be "THE REAL GLORY", with ANDREA LEEDS . . . ROCHELLE HUDSON and RICHARD ARLEN have been set by COLUMBIA for the featured roles in a new picture entitled "MISSING DAUGHTERS"; C. C. COLEMAN, JR., will direct . . . ELEANOR POWELL began her dance experiments this week to create

GOLDWYN-MAYER, "BROADWAY MELODY OF 1940"; no other cast announcements have been made as yet . . . DAVID NIVEN has been selected to

Trans

TORONTO

HOLLYWOOD
"Jezebel" (Warners), starring Bette Davis and Henry Fonda, and "Drums" (London Films), starring Sabu and Raymond Massey.

IMPERIAL
"The Little Princess" (20th Century-Fox), starring Shirley Temple.

LOEW'S
3rd week. "Pygmalion" (M-G-M), starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller.

SHEA'S
"Devil's Island" (Warners), starring Boris Karloff. Also stage show.

UPTOWN
3rd week. "The Mikado" (Universal release), starring Kenny Baker and the D'Oyly Carte Players.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"They Made Me a Criminal" (Warners), starring John Garfield and the "Dead End" Kids, and "Comet Over Broadway" (Warners), starring Kay Francis.

LOEW'S
"Hard to Get" (Warners), starring Dick Powell and Olivia de Havilland. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM
2nd week. "King of the Turf" (Edward Small-U.A.), starring Adolphe Menjou.

PALACE
2nd week. "Gunga Din" (RKO Radio), starring Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

PRINCESS
"Stand Up and Fight" (M-G-M), starring Robert Taylor and Wallace Beery, and "The Girl Downstairs" (M-G-M), starring Franchot Tone and Franciska Gaal.

(M-G-M), starring Lew Ayres and Maureen O'Sullivan.

GARRICK
"Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett.

RIO
"Woman Doctor" (Republic), with Frieda Inescourt and Henry Wilcoxon, and "Fighting Thoroughbreds" (Republic), with Ralph Byrd and Mary Carlisle.

Priscilla Lane.

HOLLYWOOD
"The Saint in New York" (RKO Radio), starring Louis Hayward, and "Having Wonderful Time" (RKO Radio), starring Ginger Rogers and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

PLAZA
"The Duke of West Point" (Edward Small-U.A.), starring Louis Hayward, Tom Brown and Richard Carlson.

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March 18th, 1939

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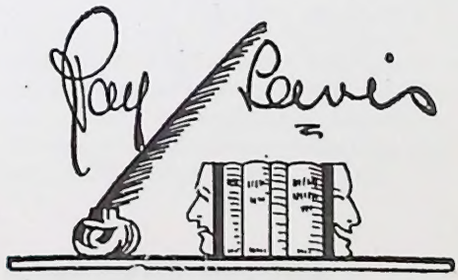


statements alleging that certain citizens, among which Mr. Nathanson was mentioned, have given Mr. McCullagh large checks to foster his Leadership League movement. What may be important is that the Leadership League's founder stated clearly that he was not desirous

Heads I Win - Tails You Lose!

Theatre Leases Now Available

Ray Presents

CAN anyone win under such an offer as "heads I win and tails you lose"? That appears to be the situation in respect to Famous Players Canadian Corporation at present, in relationship to a confusion of policies understandable perhaps to the president of the company, to those in the know-all, but not understandable to the shareholders of the company, nor to the film trade.

For instance, are the alleged Independent companies which are acquiring theatres, let us say at Peterboro, Ont., at St. Catharines, at Welland, etc., etc., theatres which are affiliated with Famous Players Canadian through a Hanson, Nat Taylor or Mr. Nathanson control? Are these theatres unaffiliated with Famous Players, but affiliated with Mr. Nathanson through the fact that he has a participating interest in them? Is Famous Players satisfied to have Mr. Hanson, or Mr. Taylor help Mr. Nathanson to build theatres in competition to Famous Players theatres? There is something paradoxical about the whole business, which is going on right under our noses.

At an Independent meeting several weeks ago, an alleged 100 per cent Independent, associated with Mr. Taylor, staged a defence for Mr. Nathanson when the question of what happened to Mrs. McMaster's theatres was discussed. It happens that this same exhibitor is building a theatre at St. Catharines just a few doors removed from the Griffin Theatre, Mrs. McMaster's house which Famous Players has closed under a lease, and which theatre in turn is just a few doors removed from the Capitol, the latter the F-P house.

AT the time Bert Wainright's Theatre, the Oxford, on Danforth Ave., was taken over by Famous Players, there was some irritation over the fact that the B. & F. circuit did not get this house. It went to Mr. Hanson. Figure that out if you can, and you may begin to have a suspicion such as I have that Mr. Hanson may be working indirectly for Famous Players.

Take a look at Mr. Bill Summerville's theatres in Toronto, the Prince of Wales and the Eastwood, real theatres. Their lease with F-P expires very soon, but no renewal lease has been signed. Perhaps Mr. N. L. is not sure who is going to get control of F-P; and he may desire these theatres for the Hanson circuit, that is if he is Hanson, and Hanson is not Famous Players.

Take a look at Mrs. McMaster's theatres; two of them have been dark for years, although Mr. Nathanson and the officers of F-P agreed, on their word of honor, that the St. Catharines theatre would be opened with pictures and vaudeville. Since the present lease has been signed, a new theatre has been built at Woodstock, Ont., where Famous Players operates another theatre belonging to Mrs. McMaster's circuit. The new theatre is under lease to Mr. Hanson's Interests. F-P operates Mrs. McMaster's theatre about five blocks up the street.

AT Chatham, Ont., Mrs. McMaster's theatre, the third one of the Griffin circuit, is closed, but since Famous Players has had it under lease, a new theatre, at Chatham, built by Mike Harris of Sarnia, has been purchased by F-P, while the Griffin theatre tumbles into decay, a closed house.

Take a look at Toronto again; there is the Madison Theatre on Bloor Street, right in the heart of the Alhambra and Bloor Theatres; the latter are Famous Players houses, but Mr. Hanson takes over the operation of the Madison.

Let us look at Hamilton. The Hamilton United Co.'s theatres, the best theatres in Hamilton, three of them, have a lease arrangement with F-P. The lease soon expires, but no renewal of the lease has as yet been proposed. Why? Famous Players has a wonderful deal. Hamilton United has the kind of a deal which will never make the common shares worth any more than they are at the present time, for although F-P can increase its dividends, as it recently has done, Hamilton United Amusement will never pay a dividend. Under the terms of their present affiliation with F-P, the latter gets seventy-five percent of the profits of Hamilton United; in addition F-P charges up three hundred dollars per week for management, and Hamilton United pays out of its share of twenty-five percent of the profits, nine thousand dollars a year rent for keeping the Savoy and other theatres closed, so it is alleged.

The Savoy, by the way, is an opera house, but just across the street from the Savoy, which

"Just Saw RKO Radio's 'Love Affair' Starring Irene Dunne and Charles Boyer -- Swell Love Story -- Full Review Next Week"--"Jay L"

Is Hanson Nathanson or Famous Players?

is closed, are two honky-tonks playing to packed business, and operated by the Hanson Interests. You will be interested to know that James Street is one of the important streets of Hamilton, with the T. Eaton Co. right across the street from the closed Savoy.

The next meeting of the shareholders of F-P and of Hamilton United is being awaited with interest, not only by shareholders in Canada, but Interests on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

MRS. McMASTER'S lease of her theatres to F-P had a clause which specified that if Mr. Nathanson left F-P, the Griffin Theatres Ltd. could break its lease. Why was this clause inserted? Because Mr. N. L. told Mrs. McMaster, the widowed daughter of a pioneer showman, that he was going to protect the widow, and the orphans of a dead showman against the machination of F-P, should he, big-hearted Jim, be forced to resign again as head of F-P.

Mrs. McMaster has an invalid mother, an old lady who is bedridden; she has a widowed sister-in-law, the widow of Peter Griffin; there are grandchildren of John Griffin, all depending on the revenue of the three theatres which Mr. Griffin thought would support his family when he passed on.

The theatres were sufficiently important to have the late Mr. Griffin insert in his will that they must carry insurance of not less than $125,000.

What has become of these theatre properties? Two theatres, the one at St. Catharines and the one at Chatham, have been kept closed for years, and these properties allowed to deteriorate. Is it that the towns were not good show-towns? If so, why did Mike Harris build at Chatham, and now others are looking the territory over to build?

At St. Catharines, there are two new theatres being built now, which shows what other exhibitors think of St. Catharines.

There are no better towns, nor locations, for Motion Picture purposes, than these locations owned by Griffin Theatres. Why has Famous Players permitted these theatres to deteriorate, and why was the new lease left unratified, when a memo of the terms was signed by Mr. Braggs on the instruction of Mr. Nathanson, by Mrs. McMaster for the Griffin Theatres, and witnessed by me?

MR. NATHANSON said that he wished a lease signed immediately. To prevent some other exhibitor from building, he said. Mrs. McMaster was negotiating a deal with other theatre interests for the lease of her theatres. Mr. Nathanson made a counter offer which included the definite reconstruction of the St. Catharines theatre; the terms of this proposed lease were ratified in the presence of Mr. Nathanson, Mr. Fitzgibbons, Mr. Bragg and Mr. Robson, not overlooking further details by Mr. Bolstad.

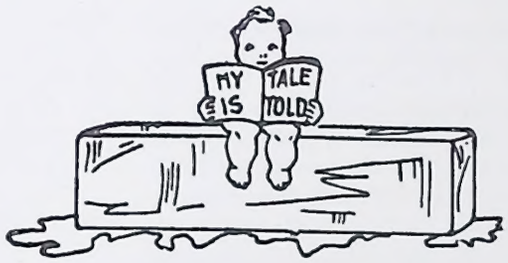
The lease was never completed. Was it that Mr. Nathanson was not certain he would get control of Famous Players, and he was desirous perhaps of making a personal deal?

There is something going on in Canada which has reached that kind of a stage where it is ripe for a blow-up.

If Mr. Nathanson is building a competitive chain of theatres, using the power and the confidence of F-P shareholders, and taking a salary and share of the profits at the same time, plus a bonus from F-P, then such a policy will result in the request for the removal of Mr. Nathanson as president, through a vote of lack of confidence in his management.

If F-P is a party to what its president is doing, and is using an alleged Independent alibi to obtain a film monopoly, then such a policy is like a stick of dynamite in the hands of a yokel.

Whatever is the answer, one thing is certain; the atmosphere is full of smoke, and a lot of people are "burning up". Shareholders today, have a habit of asking questions, and providing they do not wake up ten years later, their questions must be answered.



PLANS NOT COMPLETED

Kimberley, B.C.—Mr. A. C. Blaine, manager of the Cranbrook Theatres Ltd., stated last week that at present it was not definitely decided when construction would begin on the erection of a new theatre here, on the two lots on Wallanger Ave., and Spokane St., recently purchased by the company.

Mr. Les Young — Thank you for your subscription. Fraser Theatre, Vancouver, B.C.

UNITED AMUSEMENT CO. SHOWS INCREASED PROFITS

MONTREAL, Que. — Showing a net profit, before deduction for income taxes, of $106,404, the annual report of the United Amusement Corp., Ltd., has been sent out to the shareholders, for the year ending December 31, 1938. This figure compares with a net profit of $100,170 for the previous year. Earnings for this past year equal $1.31 per share, compared to $1.24 per share for 1937. After providing $29,936 for income taxes and $21,800 additional write-off for franchise, and appropriating $60,622 to cover dividends of 75 cents per share, a surplus of $241,342 was carried forward, representing an increase of $3,046 for the year. Current assets amount to $229,104 including $91,250 in cash and $111,023 invested in the company's own bonds, against current liabilities of $84,503. This leaves a working capital of $144,601, a decline of $20,354 during the year. Ernest A. Cousins, president of the company, presented the report.

Ben Goetz, M-G-M British Head, Sails March 25th for America, With Print of "Goodbye Mr. Chips", Starring Robert Donat

Washington Film Digest

By ROBERT LANSING

WARNER BROS. WITHDRAW "DEVIL'S ISLAND" FOLLOWING FRENCH PROTEST

Washington, D.C., March 13—(*CPS*)

A NEAT example of what Nathan D. Golden, Chief of the Commerce Motion Picture Division, reported last week regarding influence of foreign countries on American-made films has occurred here. This time it concerns "Devil's Island", produced by Warner Brothers, which has French officials all up in the air.

It had been reported that the French Embassy here had threatened to bar all Warner's films from France if "Devil's Island" was not withdrawn, but a check here reveals this report as somewhat exaggerated.

Although denying that they had threatened to bar all Warner Pictures from France if the picture was released, Embassy diplomats admitted they had received assurances the picture would be "withdrawn from France".

Jacques Truelle, counselor of the Embassy, described the book on which "Devil's Island" was based, as "a tissue of lies", which was responsible for "gross inaccuracies" in the picture. Showing of the picture in France, he contended interested people had been advised, "would be laughed at".

Warner's local zone official referred the inquirers to Grad Sears, Warner's general sales manager, while confirming the week-end announcement that remaining Capital bookings of the film had been cancelled on orders from Sears.

Truelle stated that Embassy "talks" had been carried on with the Hays office.

Asked directly concerning the report of the threat, Truelle replied: "No, no, no. That's not right. There have been talks between the Embassy and different people who asked our advice about this film. In the most friendly manner we pointed out the inaccuracies and misinterpretations existing, and said that in our opinion its showing in France would cause unfortunate laughter. But there were no threats of any kind," he said.

The Embassy said it had received "scores of letters" from Americans as well as Frenchmen in America protesting the picture was "unfair in depicting cruelty to Devil's Island prisoners. However, Embassy officials insisted that no official protests to Warner Brothers ever had been made regarding the picture.

This may be just another step toward the eventual attitude of American producers who will make pictures primarily for domestic consumption. With nearly 40 percent of the revenue today coming from foreign countries American producers are complaining that they cannot keep up the high-class production without that market and yet almost every film steps on somebody's toes.

Some of the producers, like Walter Wanger have stated that the only course is to forget the foreign countries that are always censoring this or that and concentrate on domestic markets. He maintains that pictures can be made with limited budgets that are as good or better.

The answer to all these problems may come from a suggestion made here some time ago by Nathan D. Golden, who advised producers to try and build up the South-American market. There is a potential gold mine that has been neglected, he said. The studios may be taking this advice, for it will be noted that some of the leading stars have been sent to Latin America as part of an extensive publicity campaign.

D. OF J. MULLS JUDGE BONDY'S DECISION

THE Justice Department anti-trust division attorneys, under the immediate direction of Paul Williams, who has charge of the New York Equity Suit court manoeuvers, started analyzing Judge Bondy's decision on the motion of bill of particulars in the New York case, which arrived at the Department immediately after the decision was handed down.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest correspondent was advised that the government will comply with that part of the court order requiring a bill of particulars, making its formal answer within a week or ten days.

"Now that the motion is out of the way," one attorney said, "we will be able to go ahead on the case. After our study we will present the particulars the Judge requires at the earliest practical date to provide for trial at the earliest date possible."

Attorneys here, after studying the decision, considered it a split victory with a possible slight edge for the Government. Judge Bondy said that in any event, if the Government cannot furnish particulars of some of the charges at the present time, they will have to obtain the information called for and submit the same to the court at least 30 days before the trial.

Meanwhile a confidential preliminary report has been received at the Justice Department on the North Dakota Divorcement investigation.

Assistant Attorney General Arnold and his associates are now checking the report, and are expected to decide shortly whether a summary will be made public or whether it will be used as part of the Government's New York Anti-Trust Suit against the Film Industry.

Authoritative sources at the Department told the Canadian Moving Picture Digest correspondent that Arnold has not as yet made up his mind whether or not to institute the other suits against the Industry, mentioned last week. It is believed that the decision will be based largely on whether or not the anti-trust division personnel is increased to allow for further investigations.

NEELY BILL STILL GATHERS DUST

EVERYTHING has been and still is set for hearings to start on the Neely Block-Booking Bill in the Senate, but at the time of this writing the date for the hearings is still reported as "indefinite".

Senator Smith, Chairman of the Sub-Committee that will hear the arguments pro and con, also happens to be Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and has been tied up with matters before that Committee for some time. When things will ever slack up before that Committee long enough to dispose of the Neely Bill, is a big question mark.

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Mr. S. Fingold — Thank you for your subscription. Lauder Theatre, Mount Forest, Ont.

Digest Reviews and Previews

PERSONAL MUSINGS

FOR two weeks now we've been going around telling everybody we met, that Bette Davis' performance in "Dark Victory" is the finest dramatic performance we have ever seen on the screen, and far surpasses anything Miss Davis has ever done before. We are more than pleased to see that almost every other trade paper is of the same opinion. We have purposely held back the review on this picture, because its Canadian release will not be for several weeks to come.

Another Canadian girl has just stepped on to the ladder of fame, and looks like she may well be on the way to the top. Her name is Doris Davis, blonde 17-year-old John Powers model, and who was born in Winnipeg, Man. Miss Davis has just been chosen by the judges of the Jesse Lasky "Gateway to Hollywood" talent quest as the winner of the New York regional contest. Doris will now go to Hollywood where she will compete with the winners of twenty-four other regional contests, with a contract with RKO Radio Pictures the prize. Miss Davis is engaged to Lynn Patrick, star of the New York Rangers hockey team.

Mr. B. E. Norrish, managing director of Associated Screen News, Montreal, gave an interesting lecture at the Ottawa National Museum recently, under the auspices of the Department of Mines and Resources. Subject of Mr. Norrish's address was the development of the Motion Picture Industry, with particular attention paid to the past 13 years, since the development of sound pictures.

Congratulations to Gordon Beavis, former assistant manager of the Capitol Theatre, Peterborough, Ont., who was recently appointed manager of the Royal Theatre, North Bay, Ont. He replaced Gordon Moorehead, who temporarily took over the management of the Royal following the transfer of Tommy Mascaro to London, and later to Hamilton. Gord Moorehead has now been appointed assistant manager of the Madison Theatre, Toronto.

Congratulations to Manager C. J. Decle of the Empress Theatre, Montreal, on the recent renovation of his house.

Your Digest correspondent wishes to extend his personal congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lew McKenzie — Warner Bros., Saint John, N.B. — on the birth of their son, Ian Kenneth.

Hearty congartulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Harland Rankin — Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, Ont.—a son, Robert Kerr.

★ ★

"BLONDIE MEETS THE BOSS"

COLUMBIA

ALTHOUGH I may be slightly prejudiced, "Blondie" having been my favorite comic strip for ever so many years, I think that "Blondie Meets the Boss", as the second of a proposed series, is a knock-out, and makes inevitable future additions to the series.

It has the same cast of principals that appeared in "Blondie" — Penny Singleton as "Blondie", Arthur Lake as "Dagwood", Larry Simms as "Baby Dumpling", Danny Mummert as "Alvin", and "Daisy" as himself. In addition there are Jonathan Hale as Mr. Dithers, Dagwood's boss, Joe Coffin and Dorothy Moore as a pair of jitterbug champions, Don Beddoe as the Bumpstead's neighbour, and Linda Winters as a cabaret singer.

As the picture opens, Dagwood in a fit of pique, quits his job when the boss tells him he will have to postpone his vacation. Blondie tells Dagwood not to worry, she will go down to see his boss, and get his job back for him. She succeeds in getting the job back, but for herself instead of Dagwood. The latter, furious at his wife, goes fishing with his neighbour, and becomes innocently involved with a singer at a night club. In the meantime, Blondie is commissioned by Mr. Dithers to purchase a piece of property. When she finds out about Dagwood and the cabaret girl, Blondie goes haywire, and as a result is unable to put acros the deal for the property. However, it all comes out in the wash, Blondie and Dagwood make up, and Dithers reveals that it is lucky the deal didn't go through. He gives Dagwood back his job.

The principals are uniformly good, with Larry Simms as Baby Dumpling and Daisy contributing the most merriment. The scene in which Blondie, learning of her husband's entanglement, works herself into a World War mood, is a riot.

Frank R. Strayer directed from the screen play by Richard Flournoy. It is, of course, based on the comic strip created by Chic Young.

This is a really swell family comedy, and deserves top billing on any program.

Running time—71 minutes.

"Jay L."

CLEAR COURTS OF "CLEARANCE-PROTECTION"

SOME few weeks back The Digest stated that the producer-distributors were losing millions of dollars by supporting or acquiescing in a policy of "protection". We note what Col. Cole of Texas has to say on the matter in the M. P. Herald. He is an old-time showman, he states that with the elimination of "protection" "the end of clearance will raise the revenue one-third". The block-booking question is open to discussion, for The Digest feels that no exhibitor could remain in business today under a "spot booking" plan. We must classify exhibitors not as retailers in their relation to renters, but as wholesale purchasers of film. Their retail end of the business relates itself to their sale of product to the public; and again, does it, when we consider that exhibitors give the public not one film but several, including features and shorts?

CAPITOL, ST. CATHARINES, TO BE RENOVATED

ST. CATHARINES, Ont.—Murray Brown, Toronto architect, has been retained by Famous Players Canadian Corp. for extensive alterations to the Capitol Theatre here. Plans will call for complete renovation of the house, and the installation of air conditioning equipment.

PLANNING ALTERATIONS

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. — Famous Players Canadian Corp. are considering alterations to the Algoma Theatre here, to cost in the neighbourhood of $15,000.

MODERNISTIC
Theatre Seating
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Canadian Theatre Chair Co.
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CHARLES A. BOCHNER, Mgr.

Old Digest Files Show History Does Repeat Itself

HISTORY DOES Repeat Itself. The action of H. W. Phelan vs. Famous Players closed in the Supreme Court, Toronto, Saturday, March 11, WITHOUT RAY LEWIS BEING CALLED AS A WITNESS, because Ray Lewis expressed herself rather prematurely concerning what she knew about this action of Phelan vs. Famous Players, out of court. For almost a year, the solicitor for Mr. Phelan has been at intervals calling Ray Lewis on the matter of this action. One year ago this solicitor for Mr. Phelan told Ray Lewis that Mr. N. L. Nathanson had given this solicitor the names of the men to examine in New York, and had advised him how to proceed with the action. When Ray Lewis asked this solicitor why Mr. N. L. Nathanson did not permit himself to be examined, he replied, "Oh no, Mr. Nathanson wishes to remain in the background".

Same old Nathanson tactics, landing other people with the business of making trouble, while he stays in the background, the point of vantage from which to make deals of advantage for himself.

When the action was ready for court this very year, Mr. ------ again endeavoured to secure Ray Lewis as a witness, and again Miss Lewis advised Mr. ------ to subpoena Mr. Nathanson, since he was the only one interested in the furthering of the action. Again Mr. ------ told Miss Lewis that Mr. Nathanson was extending every co-operation, but he must stay in the background. Well, gentlemen, The Digest has brought the "background" into the foreground, because The Digest is sick of such double-crossing tactics, as the president of a company plotting against his own company, if the word of Mr. ------ can be believed, and Mr. ------ is an honorable man.

History DOES Repeat Itself. 1939 saw the expiration of the Voting Trust Agreement between Mr. N. L. Nathanson, Mr. I. W. Killam and Mr. Adolph Zukor. Mr. Nathanson's motive, if one can judge it by the story related by Mr. ------, and Mr. ------ is an honorable man, was to make trouble for Famous Players and Paramount-Publix, reminiscent of 1930, the fight now as then for the control of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

IN 1930 a Protective Minority group was formed of Famous Players Canadian Corp., of which Mr. N. L. Nathanson was a leading member.

Previously Mr. Nathanson had resigned as managing - director of Famous Players Canadian following the alleged rejection of the Board of Directors to deal with the Gaumont-British, on a reported deal of $75.00 a share for Famous Players Canadian, by way of acquiring the controlling interest.

The Board of Directors of Famous Players claimed that there was never such an offer made by Gaumont-British. Mr. N. L. Nathanson insisted that there was; and a subsequent offer of $60.00 a share, made by Canadian Interests for the control of the F-P company.

The Board accepted the resignation of Mr. Nathanson, and when he withdrew from the management, Major Andrew Holt and the Hon. W. D. Ross resigned from the Canadian Board, also, for they believed as did some of the other minority shareholders the story which Mr. Nathanson told.

Mr. Nathanson placed cabled messages at the disposal of the Minority Shareholders, correspondence as between Mr. Nathanson and his personal solicitor, he co-operated fully with the minority shareholders in the action which they adopted for the protection of minority interests; and when the offer was made for the exchange of shares, five of Famous Players for four of Paramount-Publix, he revealed and disclosed information in connection with various subsidiary companies of Famous Players Canadian which were most revealing. The deal between Hamilton United Theatres was a revelation, so was the information in respect to the Sarnia subsidiary, etc., etc. He gave the minority shareholders sufficient ammunition to seek Government intervention in the matter of the proposed exchange of shares. He told us that Mr. Zukor, having been paid back his initial investment of $100,000 which he had made in the company, did not at the time of the proposed exchange of shares own one share of stock; and that Mr. Zukor had taken millions out of the Canadian company.

It was directly through Mr. Nathanson's information and co-operation that all action against the Famous Players Canadian was taken; and it was his subsequent action and participation which brought about the Combine Investigation.

RAY LEWIS was manoeuvred into playing a leading part; and became involved in the Combines Investigation, through the fact that Mr. N. L. Nathanson settled all his personal differences with Paramount and Famous Players, leaving the Minority Shareholders "holding the bag", and the Industry of Motion Pictures in Canada involved in a lawsuit. You will remember that Mr. Arthur Slaght represented Mr. N. L. Nathanson during the Combine prosecution by the Crown. You will also recall that at that time Ray Lewis received a subpoena to appear and give evidence, and you will also remember that Ray Lewis had a few things to say about that Combine prosecution, out of Court AND THAT SHE WAS NOT CALLED AS A WITNESS.

The verdict of the presiding judge in the Combine Prosecution of 1931 was a dismissal of the case against the Motion Picture Industry for lack of evidence presented by the Crown. The finding of His Lordship, Justice Urquart in the present case of Phelan vs. Famous Players Canadian resulted in a dismissal with costs, his lordship stating that the plaintiff failed to prove the charges which he had alleged, covering misrepresentation, etc.

During the court proceedings, the evidence of Mr. Hillies, a former trustee of Paramount-Publix was read, as was also the evidence, taken under commission, of Sir William Wiseman, of a representative of the house of Kuhn-Loeb and Co., and, also of a member of Price, Waterhouse & Co. Evidence of an alleged payment of $5,000,000, in bonuses, given to officers of the Paramount Board, in addition to salaries and expenses, was introduced. Evidence concerning the Blumenthal deal on his debenture bonds, and through which deal Mr. Blumenthal is alleged to have, prior to the bankruptcy of Paramount, received $36,000 for a redemption of $25,000 worth of bonds. The action of Mr. Hillies as trustee against Mr. Brulatour, etc., was read.

The Phelan vs. Famous Players action dates back to about 1936; and around that time as we remember, a certain officer of Famous Players Canadian asked Ray Lewis if she knew Mr. Phelan; and suggested to her that she get in touch with him as he was bringing an action against Famous Players regarding the exchange of shares as between F-P and P-P. But the innocent days which led to traps were but memories of an innocent past; and so little Ray smiled, and communed with herself, but it was the kind of communion which left one no spiritual satisfaction.

She recalled among other things, the case of Ray Lewis and the B.I.P. At that time Mr. N. L. Nathanson was going to help Ray Lewis, God help her; he helped her so much that he suggested Arthur Slaght as counsel for B.I.P.; and furthermore, when Arthur Dent wished to settle the court action, Mr. Nathanson told Mr. Arthur Dent NOT TO SETTLE. So Mr. Arthur Dent told Ray Lewis, and Mr. Arthur Dent is an honorable man.

Shooting the Stars

"SUSAN AND GOD", Rachel Crothers' great dramatic success, has been purchased by M-G-M for early film production; the play enjoyed an eight-month run on Broadway last season, and was a spectacular success on the road . . . MELVILLE COOPER was added to the cast of COLUMBIA'S "BLIND ALLEY" this week, joining CHESTER MORRIS, RALPH BELLAMY, ROSE STRADNER, JOAN PERRY, Scotty Beckett, Stanley Brown and Ann Doran; CHARLES VIDOR is directing . . . "THE DAY THE BOOKIES WEPT", an original story by Daniel Fuchs, has been purchased by RKO RADIO as a starring vehicle for JOE PENNER; ROBERT SISK will produce . . . HUMPHREY BOGART will play his first romantic lead in pictures in "THE OLD MAID", film version of the Pulitzer Prize winning play in which WARNER BROS. will star BETTE DAVIS and MIRIAM HOPKINS . . . "ZENOBIA", the new HAL ROACH production, has gone into the cutting room for its final editing prior to release by UNITED ARTISTS; the cast is headed by OLIVER HARDY, BILLIE BURKE, ALICE BRADY, HARRY LANGDON, JEAN PARKER, JUNE LANG and JAMES ELLISON . . . MARJORIE WEAVER got her biggest screen "break" this week when she was selected to play the romantic role of Mary Todd opposite HENRY FONDA'S Lincoln in 20th CENTURY-FOX'S "YOUNG MR. LINCOLN" . . . HARPO MARX, who has demonstrated his musical versatility on piano and clarinet in past pictures, in addition to his favorite harp, will undertake his biggest musical job in M-G-M'S forthcoming "A DAY AT THE CIRCUS"; Harpo will play every instrument in a circus band, from piccolo to tuba . . . . CHARLES COBURN and FRANK ALBERTSON have been signed by RKO RADIO for important parts in that company's production, "LITTLE MOTHER", starring GINGER ROGERS with DAVID NIVEN, which goes before the cameras next week with BUDDY DE SYLVA producing, and GARSON KANIN directing . . . WARNER BROS. have added "THE ADVENTURES OF DON JUAN" to the schedule they are lining up for their prize romantic star, ERROL FLYNN; this makes four screen plays set for Flynn . . . the first public showing of ALEXANDER KORDA'S "FOUR FEATHERS", will take place in London on March 20; based on the famous novel by A. E. W. MASON, the U.A. release stars RALPH RICHARDSON, C. AUBREY SMITH, JOHN CLEMENTS and JUNE DUPREZ . . . RICHARD BOND, young leading man, has been signed by 20th CENTURY-FOX to a long-term contract and was immediately placed in the male lead in JANE WITHERS' "POLICE SCHOOL" . . . ISABEL JEWELL and MARIAN MARSH have been engaged for feature parts in "MISSING DAUGHTERS", a new drama which COLUMBIA placed in production this week; RICHARD ARLEN and ROCHELLE HUDSON have the leads, with C. C. COLEMAN, JR., directing.

Ginger Rogers, RKO Radio star, who this week started work on her latest picture, "Little Mother".

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

IMPERIAL
"Tail Spin" (20th Century-Fox), starring Alice Faye, Constance Bennett and Nancy Kelly, and "The Three Musketeers" (20th Century-Fox), starring Don Ameche and the Ritz Brothers.

LOEW'S
"Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett, and "Flirting with Fate" (M-G-M), starring Joe E. Brown.

SHEA'S
"The Saint Strikes Back" (RKO Radio), starring George Sanders and Wendy Barrie. Also stage show.

UPTOWN
"Gunga Din" (RKO Radio), starring Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Honolulu" (M-G-M), starring Eleanor Powell, Robert Young, George Burns and Gracie Allen, and "The Strange Case of Dr. Meade" (Columbia), starring Jack Holt.

LOEW'S
"Storm Over Bengal" (Republic), starring Richard Cromwell and Rochelle Hudson. Also stage show.

ORPHEUM
"Stagecoach" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Claire Trevor and John Wayne.

PALACE
3rd week. "Gunga Din" (RKO Radio), starring Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

PRINCESS
"Wings of the Navy" (Warners), starring George Brent, Olivia de Havilland and John Payne, and "Torchy Blane in Chinatown" (Warners), starring Glenda Farrell and Barton MacLane.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"There's That Woman Again" (Columbia), starring Melvyn Douglas and Virginia Bruce.

EMPIRE
"Good Old Soak" (M-G-M), starring Wallace Beery, and "Life Begins With Love" (Columbia), with Douglas Montgomery and Jean Parker.

MAYFAIR
"The Shining Hour" (M-G-M), starring Joan Crawford, Margaret Sullavan, Robert Young, Melvyn Douglas and Fay Bainter, and "He Loved an Actress" starring Lupe Velez and Wallace Ford.

REGENT
"Racket Busters" (Warners), starring George Brent and Humphrey Bogart, and "Men Are Such Fools" (Warners), starring Wayne Morris and Priscilla Lane.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"They Made Me A Criminal" (Warners), starring John Garfield and the "Dead End" Kids.

GARRICK
"Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett.

GAIETY
"Suez" (20th Century-Fox), starring Tyrone Power, Loretta Young and Annabella, and "Freshman Year" (Universal), with Dixie Dunbar and William Lundigan.

LYCEUM
"Fisherman's Wharf" (RKO Radio), starring Bobby Breen.

RIALTO
"Smashing the Rackets" (RKO Radio), starring Chester Morris and Bruce Cabot, and "My Bill" (Warners), starring Kay Francis.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Four Girls in White" (M-G-M), with Florence Rice and Una Merkel.

ISIS
"Say It In French" (Paramount), starring Ray Milland and Olympe Bradna, and "Ride a Crooked Mile" (Paramount) starring Akim Tamiroff.

PALACE
"Trade Winds" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Fredric March and Joan Bennett, and "Always in Trouble" (20th Century-Fox) starring Jane Withers.

STRAND
"The Texans" (Paramount), starring Joan Bennett and Randolph Scott, and "Tropic Holiday" (Paramount), starring Bob Burns, Martha Raye, Dorothy Lamour and Ray Milland.

VARIETY
"My Lucky Star" (20th Century-Fox), starring Sonja Henie and Richard Greene, and "Paradise for Three" (M-G-M), with Frank Morgan and Robert Young.

VANCOUVER

CAMBIE
"Carefree" (RKO Radio), starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, and "Romance on the Run" (Universal), with Donald Woods and Patricia Ellis.

DUNBAR
"Four Daughters" (Warners), starring Claude Rains, Priscilla, Rosemary and Lola Lane, John Garfield, Jeffrey Lynn and Gale Page, and "Speed to Burn" (20th Century-Fox), with Lynn Bari and Michael Whalen.

MUSIC BOX
"Spawn of the North" (Paramount), starring George Raft and Henry Fonda, and "Straight, Place and Show" (20th Century-Fox), starring the Ritz Bros.

PLAZA
"King of the Turf" (Edward Small-U.A.), starring Adolphe Menjou, and "Les Miserables" (U.A. re-issue), starring Charles Laughton and Fredric March.

ON what had been one of the most dismal and forgotten spots in the heart of Peterboro, the long closed (12 years) Royal Theatre was superseded recently by the new 650 seat Centre. - - - The attractive, well laid-out front, along with the modern sign, is shown to the left. Modern two tone seating, beautiful decorations, air conditioning, and a 200 seat Balcony where smoking is permitted are a few of the features.

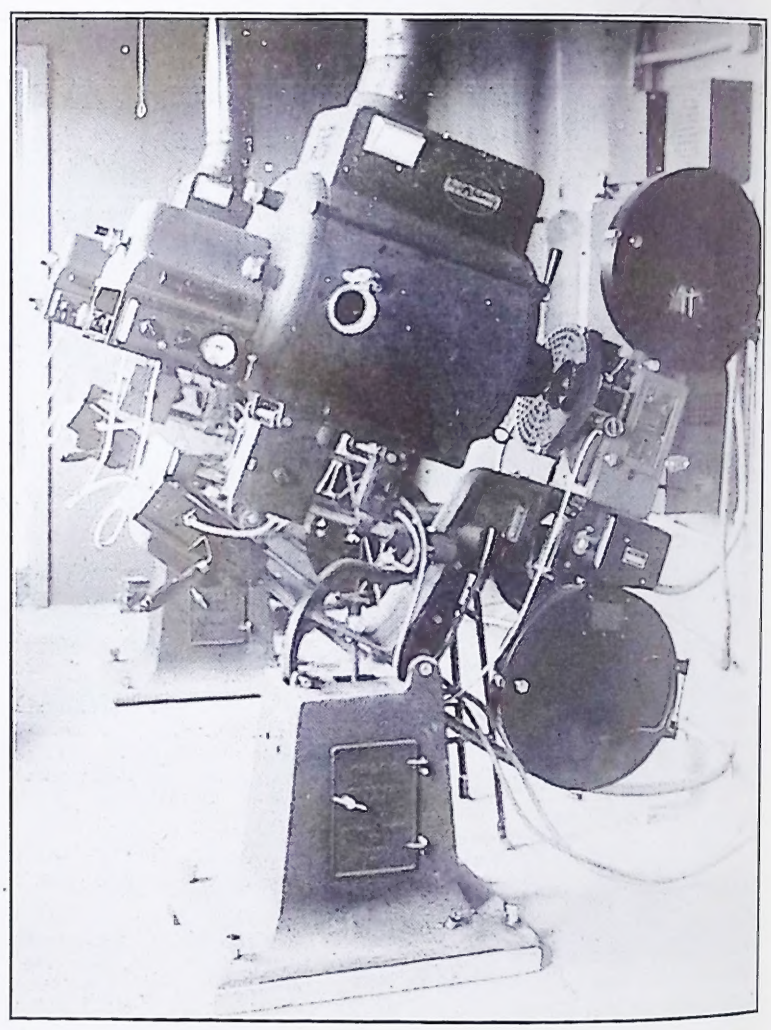
The New Centre Theatre, Peterboro, Ont.

MESSRS. ULSTER and GOLDSTONE, Props.

The Projection and Sound requirements were severe, but both were fully met. Projection angle of 21 degrees, over a balcony and to a screen that "flies" off stage when necessary.

Pictured here is the latest Celco Simplex Projectors comprising Coleman Universal Projector Bases, Coleman Suprex Arc Lamps with Twin Motors, Celco Double Magazines and Celco Simplex Mechanisms with Rear Shutters, Coleman Electric Changeovers with built in Foot Switches.

The illustration shows the Motor Switch conveniently placed, and the field rheostat mounted near the ammeter, one for each lamp from a Unitwin Two-generator set. Also the control knobs on the rheostat governing the feed motor, speeds, large handy 60 Ampere switches, double dowsers, etc. Other items installed included Da-Tone seamless white sound screen, Coleman silent curtain track and Coleman automatic curtain operator.



TRULY CANADA'S LEADING THEATRE SUPPLY HOUSE

The Coleman Electric Co. 258 Victoria St. **Toronto, Ont.**